

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EUR-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AF-10 /102 W

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R 211449Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7527

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' MEETING WITH FONMIN FAHMY

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
MAYNES, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, MET WITH DEPPM/FONMIN FAHMY
FOR 40 MINUTES JULY 21. BULK OF MEETING CONCERNED
ILO ISSUE WHICH REPORTED ELSEWHERE. DURING REMAINING
PORTION OF MEETING, HOWEVER, FAHMY TOOK HARD LINE ON
SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND POLITELY BUT FIRMLY
UPBRAIDED NEW ADMINISTRATION FOR PAYING INSUFFICIENT
ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

2. MAYNES NOTED THAT EGYPT IS A MAJOR AFRICAN POWER AS
WELL AS A MIDDLE EAST POWER AND ASKED FOR FAHMY'S THOUGHTS
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. FAHMY SAID SITUATION IN AFRICA
OVERALL IS "VERY SERIOUS" AND HE HAD TALKED ABOUT IT
MANY TIMES WITH AMBASSADOR. KEY ISSUE IS RUSSIANS WHO
ARE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT AFRICA FOR STRATEGIC REASONS.
THE U.S. DOES NOT REALIZE THIS, BUT HE HAD BEEN WITH
BREZHNEV IN THE KREMLIN AND HEARD WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.
BREZHNEV HAD READ FROM PREPARED STATEMENT. FAHMY SAID
AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE WEAK AND WILL "FALL LIKE DOMINOES
ALL OVER THE CONTINENT." HE DISMISSED U.S. ASSISTANCE
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TO ZAIRE AS MODEST AND COMPARED IT TO MASSIVE SOVIET ARMS
AND AID TO ANGOLA, LIBYA, ETHIOPIA AND OTHERS. HE SAID
EGYPTIAN POSITION AND THAT OF OTHER MODERATES HAD BEEN
UNDERMINED IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLUMBO WHICH
HAD BEEN ALMOST DOMINATED BY RADICAL REGIMES, BUT AT
OAU CONFERENCE IN LIBREVILLE MODERATES HAD TEMPORARILY
HANDED THEM A SETBACK. FAHMY ATTRIBUTED DETERIORATING

SITUATION IN AFRICA PARTLY TO SEVEN YEARS OF NEGLECT
BY SECRETARY KISSINGER WHO HAD ONLY TAKEN INTEREST IN
AFRICA DURING LAST MONTH IN OFFICE.

3. MAYNES ASKED WHETHER DOMINANT DISABILITY OF U.S.
TO COUNTER SOVIETS HAD NOT BEEN TENDENCY OF AFRICANS
TO IDENTIFY U.S. WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SOVIETS COULD
EXPLOIT THIS TENDENCY IN THE PAST. NEW ADMINISTRATION,
HOWEVER, HAD TAKEN NEW STAND TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND ON
OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. MAYNES NOTED THAT HE
HAD ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR YOUNG AROUND AFRICA AND HAD
BEEN STRUCK THAT EVEN FOR MODERATE LEADERS THE CLEAR
PRIORITY IN CONCERNS WAS SOUTHERN AFRICA FIRST AND
SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SECOND. FAHMY RESPONDED IN DISPARAGING
TONES THAT THE MODERATE LEADERS WERE "PHILOSOPHERS, NOT
REALISTS." THE PROBLEM IS NOT SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA,
BUT THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT.
IAN SMITH COULD DISAPPEAR, BUT THE SOVIETS WILL STILL BE
IN AFRICA. EGYPT NEEDS ARMS FOR SOMALIA, THE ERITREANS,
DJIBOUTI AND CHAD. CHADIAN PRESIDENT MALLOUM WANTS
EGYPTIAN MILITARY TO OCCUPY SOUTHERN CHAD WHILE HE USES
HIS OWN FORCES IN THE NORTH. EGYPT HAS SENT SOME ARMS
TO CHAD, BUT MALLOUM SAYS THEY ARE TOO SOPHISTICATED AND
HIS TROOPS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THEM. ISSUE OF SOVIETS
IN AFRICA IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ILO AND MAYNES
SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH IT SINCE THESE ISSUES WILL BE
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COMING TO UN ONE DAY. US SHOULD REALIZE THAT MOROCCO
HAD PULLED CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE IN ZAIRE BUT
THE NEXT TIME MOROCCO WOULD SAVE NO ONE.
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NNN

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